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CY 2 of 7

USAF review(s) completed.

21 July 1955

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Organizational Concept for Project OILSTONE

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline briefly the areas of agreement and the outstanding issues with respect to the organizational arrangements for OILSTONE and to advance proposals for the resolution of these issues.

2. There appears to be agreement on the following:

a. There should be a jointly staffed project headquarters in Washington receiving policy guidance from both the CIA and the Air Force and responsible for development, operational planning, and general direction and control of operations.

b. There should be a small Air Staff task force, composed of liaison officers in certain directorates of the Air Staff or in the offices of certain Deputy Chiefs of Staff. This group, and its members as individuals, should be responsible for assuring Air Force support of OILSTONE insofar as such support can most appropriately be arranged through staff channels.

c. It is desirable, in view of the newness of the weapons system, that virtually all of the technical personnel (maintenance personnel for primary mission aircraft, photo technicians, electronic technicians, etc.) be specially trained civilians. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted]

d. It is desirable that OILSTONE appear to friendly governments as a project of the CIA rather than of the Air Force.

3. It is understood to be the view of the Air Staff (a) that, since Air Force support to OILSTONE in its operational phase will involve widely ramified activities of a sort which cannot efficiently be carried on under the direction of the Air Staff itself, primary responsibility for providing this support should be assigned to the Commander, SAC, and (b) that the Commander, SAC, must, in order to discharge this responsibility, have line-of-command control over supporting elements so as to be in the position both to ensure

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Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200190011-1

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Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200190011-1

adequate support and to satisfy himself that excessive requirements for support are not being levied.

4. It is the position of CIA that, in order (a) to preserve the character of OILSTONE as a non-military, clandestine intelligence gathering project, (b) to ensure direct and authoritative joint control by the CIA and appropriate authorities in the Air Force over these politically sensitive operations, and (c) to clarify the lines of authority and responsibility, the joint headquarters in Washington should retain direct control over the operations of primary mission aircraft (except insofar as this is delegated by that headquarters to unit commanders in the field). It will be appreciated that the Director of Central Intelligence cannot retain any part of the responsibility for operations under OILSTONE if command over the personnel and the aircraft engaged in the conduct of these operations is delegated to an officer who is not (and should not be) responsible in any way to him.

5. The views of the Air Staff and the CIA, as stated above, are clearly and directly in conflict, if it is assumed that channels of command must be identical with respect to supporting elements and support functions on the one hand and operational functions on the other. There is, however, ample precedent in other CIA air operations for exercising control over the air crews and aircraft engaged in overflight operations through one channel while providing support through Air Force elements which remain wholly within a normal Air Force chain of command. In the case of OILSTONE, such an arrangement should be all the more feasible by reason of the planned employment of specialized technical personnel for the maintenance of equipment and the correspondingly smaller demands to be made upon the general facilities of the Air Force.

6. Proposal: In accordance with the above concept, it is proposed that the following basic organizational arrangements be made at this time.

a. Primary responsibility for Air Force activities in support of the project will be assigned to the Commander, SAC. He will be directed
25X1 to establish, [redacted] a headquarters unit in the ZI and field detachments at the test base and at the overseas bases from which operations are mounted. Control of the XX Air Division will be exercised by the Commander, SAC, through the Commander, XX Air Division who will be designated by him.

b. All Air Force support of OILSTONE will be furnished through the XX Air Division excepting that which can more appropriately be provided by another command or through staff channels. Supporting activities of the XX Air Division will include the operation and maintenance of support aircraft, the provision of (or arrangement for) facilities and housekeeping

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services at Air Force bases, logistical support, and training. Support will be scheduled in accordance with agreed requirements to be worked out between the XX Air Division and the project headquarters. Support to be furnished through other channels may include weather information from the Air Weather Service and materiel from the Air Materiel Command. The Air Staff task force (referred to in 2 b. above) will be responsible for arranging for support to be furnished through channels other than the XX Air Division.

c. The joint project headquarters will establish operational units to be stationed at the overseas bases from which operations are mounted. 25X1

[redacted] Each unit will also include, however, [redacted] enlisted men and [redacted] Air Force Officers 25X1 25X1 to serve as an operational staff, one of whom shall be the commander of the unit. Operational units will remain under the direct control of the joint project headquarters.

d. Each such operational unit will depend upon the corresponding unit of the XX Air Division for support. The normal line of command on matters concerning the scale and character of Air Force support shall be through the XX Air Division and the Commander, SAC. The normal line of command for purely operational decisions shall be direct to the project headquarters.

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP62B00844R000200190011-1
Orig - Gen Everest by hand.